

# Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



## Learning English *with* CBC



*Learning English with CBC* is a joint project with  
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta

Alberta

### Calgary

### May 15, 2017

#### Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

#### Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

## News story #1      New road plan for busy Crowchild Trail (0:13)

### Setting the Scene



Crowchild Trail in Calgary (Scott Dippel/CBC) (CBC file photos)

Roads are one of the most important systems in a city. Most cities are planned carefully, with bigger roads in areas with lots of traffic. This helps people drive around the city easily, without getting stuck. However, cities change, and road needs change too. Populations grow, which means more cars and buses on the road. Different neighbourhoods become more popular, which means more traffic in certain places. When important structures, like hospitals, are built, cities need to make sure there are enough roads to those services. Sometimes, cities need to re-plan or develop road systems to fit these changes.

### Pre-listening Questions

How do you get around your city or town? By car, bus, bicycle, or something else?

Do you think the roads in Canada are good? Do you see any problems?

Is traffic a big problem in your hometown or home country?

## Vocabulary

### Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions.  
*Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	approved (v.)	a) people who travel to work regularly
_____	congestion (n.)	b) working well without wasting time or money
_____	commuters (n.)	c) cars
_____	complained (v.)	d) accepted, agreed upon
_____	tunnel (n.)	e) a section of road
_____	automobiles (n.)	f) a passage built through or under something
_____	efficiently (adv.)	g) traffic that is so heavy, it slows movement
_____	corridor (n.)	h) allowed or gave a particular amount of money
_____	budgeted (v.)	i) stated that something was unacceptable

### Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

**pinchpoints** – a place on the road where crowding or congestion is likely to happen

**interchanges** – an area of road where two or more highways meet

**We encourage you to study these new words using this link:** <https://quizlet.com/3gjm83>

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

## Listening Task

### ***Answering True/False questions***

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ Calgary citizens have approved a plan to deal with bad congestion.
2. \_\_\_\_ This plan involves a section of Crowchild Trail.
3. \_\_\_\_ People complain about the area between 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
4. \_\_\_\_ They also complain about the name of the bridge.
5. \_\_\_\_ The plan involves a new bridge and new interchanges.
6. \_\_\_\_ The plan also involves a tunnel between Kensington Road and University Drive.
7. \_\_\_\_ Councillor Chabot thinks these plans help drivers but not cyclists.
8. \_\_\_\_ Chabot thinks that movement on that road will not be quicker.
9. \_\_\_\_ Council has only reserved money for the tunnel project, not the others.
10. \_\_\_\_ It is not clear when the other changes will happen.
11. \_\_\_\_ Councillor Druh Farrell says the plan will give information to people living nearby.
12. \_\_\_\_ He says he will not yet share information with businesses.

## Food for Thought

How do you avoid traffic jams?

Are there other areas of Calgary where the traffic is heavy? How could they be modified?

What else can cities do to help traffic flow in busy areas?



## News story #2      Quebec flooding affects over 170 communities (1:13)

### Setting the Scene



Police and firefighters help people stay safe in Quebec (Simon-Marc Charron/Radio-Canada) (CBC file photo)

Springtime is known as a rainy season in Canada. Most homes and cities are designed to handle the rain. However, it can be difficult to know how the weather will change. This past spring, Eastern Canada (between Ontario and the Maritime provinces) had a surprising amount of rain. The rain fell in a short period of time. The people in that region did not expect such heavy rain. River levels got very high, and the areas near these rivers flooded. This means that they filled up with water. The government, the Red Cross and the people in these areas are all working together to try and keep people safe, and to keep homes safe too.

### Pre-listening Questions

Can you think of any other natural disasters that impact cities and homes?

Does your home country experience natural disasters? What kind?

Were you in Calgary during the 2013 floods? How did it affect you?

## Vocabulary

### Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Related words</u>
_____	return (v.)	a) spill, flood
_____	swollen (adj.)	b) hurt people, suffering people
_____	overflow (v.)	c) quick, rapid
_____	forced (v.)	d) offer, give
_____	assistance (n.)	e) grown, filled up
_____	immediate (adj.)	f) giving, providing
_____	contribute (v.)	g) pushed, pressured
_____	victims (n.)	h) come back, go back
_____	donating (v.)	i) help, aid

### Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

**banks** – the higher ground on the edge of a river

**sandbagging** – putting bags of sand on top of each other to make a temporary wall (i.e., to block flooding)

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## Listening Activity

### Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then, listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Flood waters in Quebec won't return back to normal until the **end of May / end of June / end of spring**.
2. This information comes from **federal / municipal / provincial** officials.
3. The floods happened when heavy rain caused **lakes / rivers / sewers** to overflow.
4. In Quebec, more than **200 / 12 000 / 2,000** people had to leave their homes.
5. The Government of Canada sent in more than 2,000 **soldiers / senators / seniors** to help.
6. Minister Ralph Goodale says people should get quick **free service / flood-safety / financial** help from the Red Cross.
7. Goodale says that Ottawa will give a million dollars to the **Red Cross / homeowners / Quebec government**.
8. The Quebec government is also giving **5,000 / 500,000 / 5,000,000** dollars.

### Food for thought

What kind of damage does flooding cause?

How can cities help prevent flooding?

If your area was flooded, what would you do to stay safe? What would you do to help others?

### News story #3 Emmanuel Macron now President of France (2:12)

#### Setting the Scene



Emmanuel Macron makes a speech after winning the election (Lionel Bonaventure/The Associated Press) (CBC file photo)

Recently, France had an election to choose their next president. This was an important election because the country faces many serious issues these days. Some people want France to step out of the European Union and stop using the Euro as their currency (money system). This would be a similar decision to Great Britain, which chose to leave the EU last year in the “Brexit.” Also, there have been several terrorist attacks in France in the past few years. People don’t agree on the cause of the attacks. However, the people of France all want the country to be safe. The new president will have to make important decisions about the EU, and about security.

#### Pre-listening Questions

What do you know about France?

What are the big political issues in Canada these days?

What are the big political issues in your home country these days?



## Vocabulary

### Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<b>achieved (v.)</b>	reached a goal
<b>stunning (adj.)</b>	very impressive, amazing
<b>victory (n.)</b>	the act of winning a game or competition
<b>opponent (n.)</b>	someone who fights to win a game or competition
<b>independent (adj.)</b>	not connected to a particular group
<b>celebrate (v.)</b>	mark a happy event with a party or other fun activity
<b>candidates (n.)</b>	people who are running in an election
<b>majority (n.)</b>	more than 50%
<b>weak (adj.)</b>	not strong, not powerful

1. People were surprised by what Macron \_\_\_\_\_ in the election. His \_\_\_\_\_ Marine Le Pen was from a very well-known party, but Macron was an \_\_\_\_\_ candidate who had no party connection.
2. Elections usually have many \_\_\_\_\_ who want to win. In the end, the winner is the person who has the \_\_\_\_\_ of the votes.
3. After winning an election, that person will usually \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ with a speech to their supporters and to the media.
4. Macron supporters might expect a \_\_\_\_\_ presidency from him. They hope that he doesn't make decisions that are \_\_\_\_\_ or unsuccessful.

### Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

**centrist** – a person whose political beliefs aren't left-leaning (liberal) or right-leaning (conservative)  
**analysts** - people whose job is to study and discuss information, often with the media

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## Listening Activity

### **Short Answer**

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What is Emmanuel Macron's new job?
2. Who is Marine Le Pen?
3. Why is Macron's age interesting?
4. Does Macron support Europe (and the European Union)?
5. Is Macron a left-leaning politician?
6. How much time does Macron have to organize a political party?
7. How many candidates does he need for the parliamentary election?
8. What do analysts say about a majority government for Macron?
9. What do analysts say about the other parties?

### **Food for thought**

What are the pros and cons of a young president?

Can you think of any other famous centrist politicians?

What characteristics do you look for when you vote for a leader?

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MAY WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. I'm Ron Nicolson, and this is Learning English with the CBC for May 15 <sup>th</sup> , with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Calgary city council has approved a long-term plan to deal with bad congestion along a section of Crowchild Trail. Commuters have complained for a long time about the pinchpoints between 17 <sup>th</sup> Avenue in the south and 24 <sup>th</sup> Avenue in the north, and the design of the bridge. The plan calls for a new bridge, several new interchanges, and a tunnel between Kensington Road and University Drive. Councillor Andre Chabot believes the solutions are good for commuters and cyclists, and will move automobiles more efficiently through that corridor. But it's not clear when all of this would be built. Council has only budgeted money to rebuild the bridge. However, Councillor Druh Farrell says the plan shows residents and businesses along the roadway how things will look in the future.	0:13
Story 2	Flood waters in Quebec are going down, but provincial officials say river levels probably won't return to normal until the end of May. Heavy rains caused already-swollen rivers to overflow their banks. More than 170 communities were affected, and more than 2,000 people forced from their homes. The federal government has sent in more than 2,000 soldiers to help with sandbagging efforts and provide other assistance, and Ottawa says it will cover the cost. But Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said homeowners should look to the Red Cross for immediate financial aid. He also said Ottawa will contribute a million dollars to the Red Cross so it can help flood victims. The Quebec government is donating about half a million.	1:13
Story 3	Emmanuel Macron achieved a stunning victory in France's presidential election over his far-right opponent Marine Le Pen. At age 39, the independent and pro-European centrist politician is the youngest president in France's history. But, he has little time to celebrate. Macron has just weeks to organize a new political party with over 500 candidates ready for France's parliamentary election. Analysts suggest a majority is possible for Macron, but say it won't be easy, even though the other parties are divided and weak.	2:12

## Answer keys

### News story 1      New road plan for busy Crowchild Trail (0:13)

#### Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>d</u>	approved (v.)	a) people who travel to work regularly
<u>g</u>	congestion (n.)	b) working well without wasting time or money
<u>a</u>	commuters (n.)	c) cars
<u>i</u>	complained (v.)	d) accepted, agreed upon
<u>f</u>	tunnel (n.)	e) a section of road
<u>c</u>	automobiles (n.)	f) a passage built through or under something
<u>b</u>	efficiently (adv.)	g) traffic that is so heavy, it slows movement
<u>e</u>	corridor (n.)	h) allowed or gave a particular amount of money
<u>h</u>	budgeted (v.)	i) stated that something was unacceptable

#### Listening

1. F Calgary citizens have approved a plan to deal with bad congestion.
2. T This plan involves a section of Crowchild Trail.
3. F People complain about the area between 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
4. F They also complain about the name of the bridge.
5. T The plan involves a new bridge and new interchanges.
6. T The plan also involves a tunnel between Kensington Road and University Drive.
7. F Councillor Chabot thinks these plans help drivers but not cyclists.
8. F Chabot thinks that movement on that road will not be quicker.
9. F Council has only reserved money for the tunnel project, not the others.
10. T It is not clear when the other changes will happen.
11. T Councillor Druh Farrell says the plan will give information to people living nearby.
12. T He says he will not yet share information with businesses.

## News story 2

## Quebec flooding affects over 170 communities (1:13)

### Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Related words</u>
<u>h</u>	return (v.)	a) spill, flood
<u>e</u>	swollen (adj.)	b) hurt people, suffering people
<u>a</u>	overflow (v.)	c) quick, rapid
<u>g</u>	forced (v.)	d) offer, give
<u>i</u>	assistance (n.)	e) grown, filled up
<u>c</u>	immediate (adj.)	f) giving, providing
<u>d</u>	contribute (v.)	g) pushed, pressured
<u>b</u>	victims (n.)	h) come back, go back
<u>f</u>	donating (v.)	i) help, aid

### Listening

1. Flood waters in Quebec won't return back to normal until the **end of May / end of June / end of spring**.
2. This information comes from **federal / municipal / provincial** officials.
3. The floods happened when heavy rain caused **lakes / rivers / sewers** to overflow.
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7. Goodale says that Ottawa will give a million dollars to the **Red Cross / homeowners / Quebec government**.
8. The Quebec government is also giving **5,000 / 500,000 / 5,000,000**.



### News story 3

### Emmanuel Macron now President of France (2:12)

#### Vocabulary

1. People were surprised by what Macron achieved in the election. His opponent Marine Le Pen was from a very well-known party, but Macron was an independent candidate who had no party connection.
2. Elections usually have many candidates who want to win. In the end, the winner is the person who has the majority of the votes.
3. After winning an election, that person will usually celebrate their victory with a speech to their supporters, and to the media.
4. Macron supporters might expect a stunning presidency from him. They hope that he doesn't make decisions that are weak or unsuccessful.

#### Listening

1. What is Emmanuel Macron's new job?  
*President of France*
2. Who is Marine Le Pen?  
*Macron's (far-right) opponent*
3. Why is Macron's age interesting?  
*He is the youngest president in France's history*
4. Does Macron support Europe (and the European Union)?  
*Yes*
5. Is Macron a left-leaning politician?  
*No, he is a centrist*
6. How much time does Macron have to organize a political party?  
*weeks*
7. How many candidates does he need for the parliamentary election?  
*over 500*
8. What do analysts say about a majority government for Macron?  
*it is possible, but won't be easy*
9. What do analysts say about the other parties?  
*they are divided and weak*